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2010

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February 23, 2011

All Minneapolis City Council Members

105 5th Ave S, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Dear Council Members,

We were made aware by Council Member Tuthill that she had received complaints from some residents in the Uptown area regarding the behavior of drunks coming from establishments in that area and occasionally the volume of music that carries into residential areas. However, upon receipt of the link to the proposed ordinance changes yesterday, we received our first look at the changes proposed to rectify those complaints.

We immediately question whether the City Attorney thinks that setting different standards for businesses inside and outside "the central business district" will hold up in court. It is our hope that the Council will also consider the negative impact these ordinance changes will have on the commercial corridors outside the central business district. We believe the approach that is suggested be taken with these proposed ordinance changes is unwarranted. Hold businesses responsible with the stick of their liquor licenses, just as the City did at El Nuevo Rodeo. That business owner's positive changes in operations shows that this works.

More control on already highly controlled businesses is what contributes to Minneapolis' label as a hard place to do business. The street reconstruction, property taxes, and the downturn in the economy has hit all of Lake Street hard, including Uptown. We don't need to make it any harder on these business owners who have invested in our communities to make a living.

Sincerely,

Joyce Wisdom
Executive Director